Panchayat. I understand that the Adur Panchayat has also passed a resolution supporting this proposition. I would request Government to consider this matter.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I second it.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* The Hon'ble member requests through this resolution to have a separate Panchayat for one single village. This village is included within the jurisdiction of the Adur Panchayat now. That Panchayat consists of 9 members. The village is represented now. The question is whether we should have a separate Panchayat at present. The constitution of a separate Panchayat means additional expenditure.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* How much ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* House rent, clerk, office expenses, sweeping charges and such other things.

As this is not a very urgent necessity, I would earnestly request the Hon'ble member in view of the present financial condition of the State to withdraw the resolution and to renew it at better times.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I am not going to press the resolution. Every resolution I bring here I do not press. Only in suitable cases I press. In this case, I wanted to hear the Government's view. The expenditure I think is negligible. After all, I think you will get a house free of rent in Adur.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Certainly not.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* For the Pariyaram Panchayat, they were paying no rent till last year. It was only from last year that they have begun to pay Rs. 2. Pariyaram is certainly a better village than Kallur Vadakkummuri.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Certainly not.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* I think Mr. Govinda Menon will give free quarters to house the Panchayat. He is one who wants to see his village prospering and getting into prominence. All the argument against is expenditure. After all, I think the additional expenditure would be only Rs. 25 a year according to my calculation.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* What about the clerk ?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* No clerk would be required.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* And sweeper ?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* That is a minor matter. Even now they are sweeping.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* It is a sweeping remark. *(Laughter).*

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Therefore, according to my calculations, the expenditure would be Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 a year. Government may try and make an estimate. With the hope that I may bring this matter again in the near future, I do not press my resolution now. I request the House that I may be granted leave to withdraw my resolution.

Resolution by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION No. 48

Holding of the General Elections to the Legislative Council in the end of Medam or the 1st week of Edavam

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Mr. President, Sir, I move the following resolution.—

"This Council recommends to the Government the desirability to hold hereafter the General Elections to the Legislative Council in the second or third week of Medam".

When I tabled this resolution, I wanted to bring to the notice of the House and the Government that elections may be held during the 2nd or 3rd week of Medam. I would be satisfied if elections are held in the 1st week of Edavam. In the last general elections, elections were held practically in the last week of Edavam with the result that it was very difficult owing to the rain to bring the voters to the polling booths, and especially in the case of the poor candidates who cannot supply vehicles or any other conveniences to the voters the hardship will be very much. I commend this resolution for the acceptance of this House.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* I second it.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* It is better to have it in the end of Medam or the 1st week of Edavam before monsoon.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I find that elections in the year 1103 was held on 10th Edavam, in 1106 on the 6th Edavam, in 1110 on the 6th Edavam and in 1113 on the 24th Edavam.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* If possible, have it at the end of Medam.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The difficulty is in the matter of getting the services of the large number of teachers who would be required to conduct the elections. That is the main difficulty so far as Government are concerned, because that will be vacation time.

Mr. K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur)*: Where do they go? They will be within the State.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: But they will not be available in their normal places of duty. That is the whole trouble about it. Not that the Government have any particular objection to have it on any date that would suit the wishes of the Council. There is this practical inconvenience to get the services of the teachers.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: The teachers' vacation should be adjusted.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The Diwan Peishkar to whom the matter has been referred has reported as follows.—

"In the month of Medam, officers who have got long vacations and their people will be generally away from their usual places of residence and it may not always be convenient for them to come and exercise their votes if the elections are held in Medam. Generally, election dates are fixed to suit the convenience of the electors and not of the candidates alone. Moreover, the services of the teachers of the Education Department will be required for appointment as Polling Officers. The month of Medam may not be suitable for it".

Therefore, if it is the wish of the House that it must be held early in Edavam that could be done.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Will the Government kindly give us some information as to what exactly the extra expenditure involved for conducting the elections in Medam?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The voters also will find it inconvenient since most of them will be enjoying their holidays and will not be in the station. The schools also will be closed and the teachers also will not be available.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: The first week of Edavam will be convenient. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution.

Resolution, by leave, withdrawn.

RESOLUTION No. 49

Amending the Legislative Council and Municipal Electoral Rules in certain respects

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Sir, I move the following resolution.—

"This Council recommends to the Government to amend the Electoral Rules of the Legislative Council and Municipal Councils by deleting—

(a) from the schedule of corrupt practices in such elections, the following acts on the part of the candidates or their agents—

(i) hiring or using vehicles, boats, animals or human beings for conveying voters to the respective polling stations;

(ii) treating the voters by any drink or meal which cannot, by common usage, be called intoxicating;

(b) the schedule for the return of election expenses".

Generally these rules are violated. That is an open secret. Every officer of Government knows, the Government knows and all know of it. These rules are honoured more in their breach than in their observance.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: No, no.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: What, no, no? It is a fact. A candidate who has spent Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000 in filing the return of election expenses says that he has spent only Rs. 75 or Rs. 100. Therefore, it is better that such a provision which is observed more in the breach than in the application is deleted from the electoral rules. As far as my knowledge goes, even in England and America, these rules are not observed and the practice for the candidates has been to engage carriages or vehicles to take the voters to the polling stations.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: No, no.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: I assert that they do. They may not bribe the voters by giving money as some do here. They may entertain them. As far as my information goes, as gathered from some members of the Madras Legislative Assembly, this provision has been deleted from the rules existing there. I humbly submit that this House will also be pleased to recommend to Government to delete the provisions referred to above from our electoral rules.

In the Vadakkancheri Munsiff's Court, I understand there was an election suit in connection with the last Town Council Election. It was ordered to have a re-election simply because the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly